

*The*  
***Paraeducator***  
*Helping Students Shine*  
***Press***

## ***Paraprofessional Training Now Available!***

By the time you read this, special education administrators in all school divisions should have received information from Dr. Douglas Cox and Dr. Thomas Elliott of the Virginia Department of Education regarding training for paraprofessionals. In order to assist school divisions that are responsible for creating quality professional development for all school personnel, the Virginia Department of Education Divisions of Special Education & Student Services and Teacher Education & Licensure are providing three resources for the supervision and professional development of paraprofessionals.

First, the *Virginia Paraprofessional Guide to Supervision and Collaboration with Paraprofessionals: A Partnership* is available on the Virginia Department of Education Web site at [www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/sped/ta.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/sped/ta.shtml). This guide was developed to provide information and strategies to build strong, effective, supportive teams to ensure successful educational services for all students.

A second resource, a companion product using the content from the above mentioned guide, provides five professional development workshops for paraprofessionals in elementary or secondary schools who work with students with disabilities and their teachers. While the workshops are designed as self-study and are available at T/TAC Online, <[www.ttaonline.org/index.asp](http://www.ttaonline.org/index.asp)>, they have also been formatted for inservices that may be conducted by school system personnel. Formatted modules are on a CD and include PowerPoint slides, lecture notes, and activities. The workshops are aligned with the 2001 Council for Exceptional Children standards. Each workshop contains a series of WebShops that may be done in a self-paced manner. Upon completion of each WebShop, a certificate of completion can be printed for each paraprofessional's personal and personnel file. The titles of each workshop and accompanying WebShops are:

### Workshop 1: Overview of Special Education Programs

- \* History and Purpose of Special Education
- \* Roles & Responsibilities of Paraprofessionals
- \* Families and Multicultural Communities

### Workshop 2: Characteristics of Exceptional Learners

- \* Students with Higher Incidence Disabilities
- \* Students with Lower Incidence Disabilities
- \* Students with Other Special Learning Needs

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### Workshop 3: Supporting the Instructional Process

- \* Using a Lesson Plan
- \* Instructional Strategies
- \* Adapting Curriculum

### Workshop 4: Supporting Positive Behaviors in the Classroom

- \* Observing and Recording Data
- \* Positive Behavioral Supports

### Workshop 5: Collaboration and Communication

- \* Collaboration
- \* Communication

The third resource, *The Personal Planner and Training Guide for the ParaEducator*, has been purchased from The MASTER Teacher with Virginia Special Education Improvement Grant funds. It includes tips, strategies, and forms which allow each paraprofessional to keep track of vital information he or she will need in working with specific teachers and their students.

All these materials have been distributed to local school systems for use in providing high quality training for paraprofessionals. Contact Dr. Patricia Burgess at (804) 225-2096 or <pat.burgess@doe.virginia.gov> with questions or for additional information.



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